

Remarks

The above Amendments and these Remarks are in reply to the Office action mailed October 6, 2004. No fee is due for the addition of any new claims. An appropriate Petition for Extension of Time to Respond is submitted herewith, together with the appropriate fee. A Notice of Appeal is also submitted herewith, together with the appropriate fee.

Claims 17-44 were pending in the Application prior to the outstanding Office Action. In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected all claims. The present Response amends claims 17 and 26-28, leaving for the Examiner's present consideration claims 17-44. Reconsideration of the rejections is requested.

The Amendments

The Examiner is thanked for the courtesy of his interview with the undersigned on November 2, 2004. Applicants were disappointed, however, that no agreement was reached.

In preparation for an Appeal, therefore, Applicants submit this Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 to make the distinctions of claims 17 and 26-28 over Lamping even more clear.

Applicants believe it absolutely clear that Lamping in no way teaches Applicant's amended claim language in these claims, calling for a step of obtaining layout data identifying the subject element's position *in the space with negative curvature*, based on *only* the nearby relationship data and *not on layout data identifying the position of any other element in the space with negative curvature*.

When Lamping determines his layout data in the space with negative curvature, he *does*

use the layout data previously determined for the position of other elements already laid out in the space with negative curvature. Lamping therefore fails to teach an element called for in Applicants' claims 17 and 26-28, and cannot anticipate.

With respect to independent claims 29 and 42-44, the Examiner argues that the limitations of these claims are identical to claim 17 except for calculating element's position in the space with negative curvature and storing the positions for each element. No amendment is made herein to these claims, because the Examiner has again misread them as already written.

Claim 29 calls for a step of storing the positions for each element in the plurality in a data structure such that *after the positions for all elements in the plurality* have been calculated, the position of each element in the plurality is stored in the data structure *only relative* to an element of the node-link structure other than a root element of the node-link structure.

In Lamping '632 (as elaborated in the teachings of Lamping '250, which were incorporated therein), by the time each particular element's position is stored in the node layout data structure, and before the position of the next node is determined even in relative terms, the particular element's position has already been converted to *absolute* terms. There is never a time when the position of *more than one* node, whose position has been fully determined, is expressed *relative* to any other node in the node-link structure being laid out (except perhaps nodes that are children of the root node, but these are excluded anyway by the claim phrase, "other than a root element of the node-link structure"). Applicants explained this point in their previous Response D filed 21 October 2003, complete with citations to specific language and figures in Lamping '632 and '250.

The claim calls for storing in relative terms the position of each element in a *plurality* of the elements, such that after the positions for all elements in the *plurality* have been calculated, the position of *each* element in the *plurality* is stored in the data structure only in relative terms. The term "plurality" obviously means more than one. Since in Lamping '632/'250 there is *never more than one element at a time whose position is stored in relative terms*, Lamping cannot anticipate Applicants' claims 29 and 42-44.

Moreover, regarding all the independent claims, the Examiner's citation of parts of Lamping that discuss methods for mapping elements from layout space into display space are completely inapposite because display space is a *flat* space, not a *space with negative curvature*, as called for in Applicants' claims. Those cited methods of Lamping do not teach anything about a method for laying out a node-link structure *in a space with negative curvature*, and therefore cannot anticipate.

Why This Amendment Should Be Entered

Applicants respectfully request that this amendment be entered under 35 U.S.C. 116(b)(2) since it presents the rejected claims in better form for consideration on appeal.

Conclusion

Enclosed is a PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for extending the time to respond up to and including April 6, 2004.

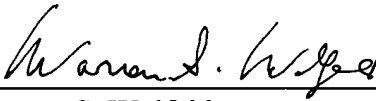
Also enclosed is an IDS and a Notice of Appeal.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0869/INXT 1002-1 for any matter in connection with this response, including any fee for extension of time, which may be required.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 6 April 2005

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